

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01564 181524Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----045747 181527Z /14

O 181430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 761
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1564

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETINGS WITH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES
AND SITHOLE AIDE

REF: PRETORIA 1563

1. SECOND MEETING WAS HELD WITH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES
IN BRITISH EMBASSY ON MARCH 18. SUBSEQUENTLY, ONE HOUR
SESSION WAS HELD WITH SITHOLE AIDE, DR. GOPO. RHODESIANS
ASKED A NUMBER OF DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED
CONFERENCE INCLUDING: TIMING, VENUE, PARTICIPANTS, CHAIRMAN-
SHIP, DURATION AND EFFECT ON HOSTILITIES. THEY RE-
PEATED THAT THEY SAW LITTLE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS FOR
A CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME, BUT SAID THAT THIS MIGHT
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CHANGE ONCE THE NEW TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD ES-
TABLISHED ITSELF AND SHOWN PROGRESS AND THERE WERE
SIGNS OF POSSIBLY NARROWING THE GAP. GOPO SHOWED NO
INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AT ALL AND DELIVERED A
SITHOLE MESSAGE THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WAS
"SEALED AND IRREVERSIBLE." GOPO ADMITTED THAT SMITH
COULD STILL TERMINATE THE ARRANGEMENT AT ANY TIME, BUT

HE THOUGHT THIS WAS NOT LIKELY. HE STRESSED THAT THE
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE AND PRE-
DICTED THERE WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE AMONG
ZANLA FORCES INSIDE RHODESIA WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

2. MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE DISCUSSION WILL BE
SENT SEPTEL.
BOWDLER

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NNN

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